



# Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association

*Serving the Lakes Community since 1940*

## Spring 2019 Newsletter

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

<b>Boater's Safety Class</b>	<b>April 6<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Annual Member Meeting</b>	<b>May 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Boat Wash Portage Launch</b>	<b>June 13<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Pizza Party</b>	<b>August 9<sup>th</sup></b>

### *President's Note - Spring 2019* *Mark Teicher*

The PBWOA is beginning the count-down to its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020 with lots of history and accomplishments. Over the past year we have concentrated on several programs to help PBWOA members become better educated on lake, water and weed issues. Some of these initiatives include:

- Reimbursement for members completing the MSU Extension class on lake health
- Sponsoring State of MI Boat Wash
- Healthy Lakes Conference
- Reviewing state lake related legislation
- Education of the implications of PFAS contamination (Do Not Eat the Fish)
- Supporting members on the Natural Shoreline Program and seminar
- Elders of the Chain story telling
- Publishing the PBWOA Five Best Practices Brochure with presentations to educate local Real Estate personnel
- Local wetland preservation
- Supporting members for the MLSA-MSU Lakes Leadership Training Institute
- Keeping Facebook and Website up to date
- Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) in conjunction with Michigan Clean Water Corps – thank you volunteers!

### **It's time to renew your PBWOA membership!!**

We have enclosed a pre-addressed envelope in which you can return your membership sign-up card, \$50.00 check, and, for current members, a Board Voting card. Voting deadline is May 4.

You can also renew or join online by going to <http://www.pbwoa.org/signup/> where you can also pay your dues by credit card using the secure PayPal service.

Whether you have a question, comment, complaint or just want to sit in and see what's going on (no, you will not be dragged onto a committee) everyone is welcome to attend monthly Board Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m., Hamburg Senior Center (10407 Merrill Road).

However, with all our successes our biggest challenge and disappointment has been the administration of the Chain of Lakes SAD Project by Washtenaw County. We have voiced our concerns directly to Washtenaw County Commissioner Evan Pratt and will continue to do everything we can to help this important program succeed. Any PBWOA member with concerns should voice them directly to the Commissioner at:

[Pratt@washtenaw.org](mailto:Pratt@washtenaw.org)

We are hoping to add to our membership and be in an even stronger position to voice our concerns. This body of water is so precious that we cannot afford to let this opportunity to clean and protect it go to waste.

**PBWOA would like to offer a huge THANK YOU to Tom Ehman and the Portage Yacht Club for their generosity these last few years in allowing us to use their facilities for our Annual Meeting and our Pizza Party.**

## Mobile Boat Wash

### June 13 at the Public Launch Site

The PBWOA is planning to sponsor the MSU Free Mobile Boat Wash program at the Portage Boat Access Site again this summer. The first one is tentatively scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>. "Movement of boats and trailers among water bodies is the most common way Aquatic Invasive Species spread in Michigan. Washing is an easy way to stop them." The statewide program (sponsored by Michigan State University, the US Forest Service and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) is offered free in an effort to promote boater awareness and understanding of the problem that "aquatic hitchhikers" can create.

The trailer-mounted unit uses high-pressure, heated water, takes up very little space and does not interfere with the boat launch movements. A containment mat soaks up the water so that there is no run-off. It takes less than five minutes. The PBWOA is partnering in this effort to educate boaters of the need to prevent the introduction of more aquatic invasive species into our waters. ☐

There is a new boating law this year (SB 1072 of 2018 (PA 0451 of 2018): The new law indicates that a person shall not:

- Launch or transport watercraft or trailers unless they are free of aquatic organisms, including plants;
- Transport a watercraft without removing all drain plugs and draining all water from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells;
- Release unused bait into the water



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## Board Elections

Board members are elected for two year terms, with half of the Board being elected in each year. If you were a member in 2018, you should have received a card on which you can vote for 2019-2020 Board members. Board members who are up for election this year are indicated by asterisks in the list below. The ballot also contains spaces for write-in candidates. You can include the ballot in the pre-addressed envelope with your membership renewal. **The deadline for voting is May 4, 2019.**

### The PBWOA Board

President: Mark Teicher *	248-420-9144
Vice President: Jon Waitz	734-878-9312
Vice President: Dave Wilutis *	517-349-5232
Secretary: Jane Ollila	734-878-4876
Treasurer: Jay Hale *	734-878-3535
Directors : Chris Brenner	734-648-0329
Jim Jensen *	810-599-8125
Jan Arps-Prundeanu	734-426-5057
Dave Moody	734-426-0668
Bob Nester	734-426-2545
Craig Kivi *	734-478-5730



**Sunday Breakfast Buffet**  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- \* Omelet Station
- \* Fresh Fruit & Salad Bar
- \* Scrambled Eggs
- \* Bacon, Ham, Sausage
- \* French Toast
- \* Breakfast Pizza
- \* Pastries
- \* Cereal & Oatmeal
- \* Hash Brown Potatoes
- \* Sausage Gravy & Biscuits

Ph: (810) 231-1441

Adults: \$10.95 | Kids 6-11 yrs: \$5.95 | Under 6 yrs: Eat Free

### Docks & Hoists

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## ***Protecting your lake***

### ***Five Best Lakefront Practices explained***

#### ***Article 2 – Do not use fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides.*** ***Craig Kivi***

Protecting the health of our lakes allows us to continue to wade, swim, fish, boat, and enjoy other recreational activities, ensuring this for our children, grandchildren, and so on. When we protect our lake we protect our home values, as there is significant precedent of degradation of lake health reducing lake property values.

As a review, those 5 best practices were:

1. Dispose of car/house poisons properly
2. Don't use fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides
3. Pick up Pet Waste (which is fertilizer) immediately
4. Don't burn yard waste (which is fertilizer) or throw it in the lake
5. Create tall grass and flower strip as a natural filter and buffer zone to the lake

In this article we talk about the somewhat controversial but critical topic, item #2 - fertilizing our lakefront properties. We say controversial because as with everything, not all scientists agree fertilizer causes algae and weed growth. A few organizations and publications promote this confusion with statements promoting the use of *lake safe, no phosphorus*, or the best one - *all natural* or *organic* fertilizers. Further, this becomes even more complex by estimates of *safe* distances from the lake to fertilize: 25', 50', 100', 300', etc., irrespective of the grade of the lakefront lot, whether the lot has a vegetation buffer to catch nutrients, what concentration or type of fertilizer, etc. We say this topic is **critical** because of the current condition of our lakes.

So what can we conclude? Although scientists rarely agree on things, we have found scientists in general DO agree that NO fertilizing of any kind on lakefronts is the most responsible way forward.

Why? For the same reasons we discussed in our last article regarding household poisons - everything we put on our lakefront lawns ends up in the lake through repeated rains and migration through the soil. Herbicide and insecticide poisons, upon entering the lake, can kill fish, frogs, turtles, aquatic insects, and other wildlife. Fertilizers, which are basically nutrients (food) for vegetation, create the terrible algae blooms we've seen, as well as potentially increase

weed growth. Fertilizers come from farms and upriver...but why should we make the problem worse?

From a common sense standpoint, does anyone think it makes sense to pick up a hundred pounds of concentrated fertilizer, return to your lakefront home and deposit it on your front lawn where rain will eventually wash some of it into the lake? Multiply that by all the fertilizing homes up and down the chain of lakes? How many tons? How would you feel about pouring some directly into the lake? Well there's no way we would do that. What's the difference?

Further, does it make any sense that we are feeding the algae and weeds in our lakes with fertilizer, then paying special assessment taxes to poison the very vegetation we may be creating? To many this sounds like a vicious cycle. Perhaps one day we will look back and ask "What were we thinking?"

One is reminded of dedicated chain of lakes research scientists 20 or 30 years ago who said "Green lawns make green lakes." Or "You can use any fertilizer and as much as you want as long as it doesn't have any nutrients." (Of which there is none). Weed and algae growth has become many times worse since then and now affects our recreation. What if we had listened to them then? How about now?

So is there an alternative to fertilizing if you want a green lawn? Yes. First of all, think about a "new lake lawn." It contains, among "normal" grass, other things such as crabgrass, dandelions, clover, etc., all of which need very little water and NO fertilizer to stay green and healthy. Cut, it looks and feels fine to bare feet. Second, as in a previous issue of the newsletter, the use of a lake pump will make your lawn look terrifically green. Why? Because you're using free fertilized water!

Anyone can find a study to justify using fertilizer on lakefront, and anyone can find a study showing how destructive it is to the lake. One thing we can all agree on – using NO fertilizer is absolutely the safest way to ensure we are not contributing to the algae and vegetation problems in our lakes. With steadily increasing algae blooms and vegetation reducing our ability to recreate on them, it appears at this point we have no choice.

***“Remember: Rain washes everything into the lake.”***

## Annual Meeting Agenda

### May 11, 2019 at Portage Yacht Club

**8:30:** coffee, tea, donuts, bagels and cream cheese

**9:00:** Call To Order,

1. Washtenaw County Sheriff Representative.
2. Special invited speakers.
3. MLSA Conference Report
4. Question –Answer time
5. Business Portion



## Portage Yacht Club

Located on South shore of Portage Lake

8930 Dexter-Pinckney Rd

**Dining & Cocktails — Nightly Dinner & Drink Specials**  
**Evening Dining Wednesday through Sunday; Brunch Sunday**  
**Public Welcome — Membership not required to dine\***  
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**Social memberships \$50 — No monthly minimum**

**\*Social membership required for alcohol purchase**



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## Washtenaw County Marine Patrol Activity Report— 2018

	Baseline	Little Portage	Portage
Number of Patrol Hours	122.75	1	432
Compliance Inspections	84	0	314
Boating Under the Influence Arrests	7	0	2
Violation Citations Issued	3	0	11
Violation Warnings Issued	39	0	93

A Marine Patrol deputy will be at our Annual Meeting to answer questions about their activities.